

KU begins week-long workshop on communication skills in AI era

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SRINAGAR: A week-long workshop on 'Developing Communication Skills in the Age of AI' began today at the Main Campus of the University of Kashmir (KU).

The workshop is being organised by the varsity's Department of English, in collaboration with the Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University, under the sponsorship of the Higher Education Council.

It aims to equip participants with essential communication competencies in an AI-driven world, focusing on critical thinking, digital writing practices, ethical use of AI tools, and



enhancing academic and professional communication skills.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "In the rapidly evolving digital landscape, communication skills have acquired new dimensions. It

is imperative for students and scholars to adapt to emerging technologies like artificial intelligence while preserving the core values of clarity, creativity, and critical thinking."

She further said that such workshops play a vital role in bridging the gap be-

tween traditional learning and contemporary technological advancements, enabling participants to become effective communicators in both academic and professional domains.

Delivering the keynote address, Neha Mishra, Assistant Professor of Practice at the Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University, highlighted the growing relevance of AI in shaping communication practices. She provided an overview of the workshop, outlining its focus on integrating AI tools with writing pedagogy, fostering creativity, and developing responsible digital communication strategies.

Earlier, Head, Department of English, KU, Prof.

Mufti Mudasar Farooqi, in his welcome address, emphasized the importance of such collaborative initiatives in enhancing students' academic engagement and preparing them for the evolving demands of the global knowledge economy.

The week-long workshop will feature a series of technical and practical sessions on AI-assisted writing, academic communication, digital literacy, and ethical considerations in the use of artificial intelligence. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Prof. Tasleem War, faculty, Department of English KU, who also proposed a formal vote of thanks.

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Monday launched a sharp attack on the People's Democratic Party, terming its protests against the Rajbagh-Sangarmal flyover as "fabricated outrage".

In a statement issued from the party headquarters Naw-e-Subha, State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the PDP has reduced itself to a cycle of theatrics, misinformation and staged dissent in a desperate attempt to stay relevant. Imran underscored that the Rajbagh-Sangarmal flyover is not merely a construction project but a critical urban intervention aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity in Srinagar. He questioned

the logic of opposing such a project, saying that when development becomes dis-comforting, it often exposes deeper political insecurities. Recalling the project's origins, Imran noted that it was first conceived in 2011 under a National Conference-led government.

Despite attempts by certain vested-interest groups to stall it through legal means, the court dismissed their petition and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, observing that the challenge lacked genuine public cause.

He further pointed out that the project's trajectory was altered during the PDP-BJP alliance, when the proposed flyover was scaled down to a footbridge, a move he described as "a telling metaphor for shrinking vision." Reaffirming the party's de-

velopmental commitment, Imran said the National Conference had promised to restore the project to its original vision, a promise now fulfilled with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah approving it in a recent cabinet meeting. While welcoming this as a long-overdue corrective step, Imran expressed concern that the same vested interests have resurfaced, this time with the PDP at the forefront. He remarked that opposition for relevance is easy; opposition with credibility is not.

He said that the public has not forgotten the political choices that enabled the BJP's entry into power in the region, adding that those who scripted that chapter can scarcely claim to be custodians of public interest today.

Dr. Farooq express condolences on demise of Ghulam Mustafa Asmi

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah has expressed grief over the demise of Ghulam Mustafa Asmi, former Chief Engineer, a resident of Qamarwari. Remembering him as a dignified and upright individual, Dr. Farooq said that Asmi sahib earned respect for his professional integrity and personal conduct. He termed his passing as a personal loss, recalling the longstanding bond between the two families. Dr. Farooq prayed for magh-firah for the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, especially his sons Tahir Asmi, Mukeem Asmi, Rafi Asmi, and Nissar Asmi, and prayed for strength and patience for them to bear the loss. Meanwhile Dr. Farooq Abdullah made a phone call to Mirwaiz Dr. Umar Farooq and expressed sympathies and condolences to him on the bereavement in the family.

Army, civil authorities join hands to provide medical care to over 650 students in north Kashmir

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SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and spreading awareness about general health and hygiene among school children, the Indian Army organised a comprehensive medical camp at the Army Goodwill School in Ziran, in collaboration with the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tangmarg, officials said. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from 275 girl students, 380 boy students, and 25 school teachers, reflecting a fine example of civil-military coordination. A team of three doctors, including a Paediatrician, from SDH Tangmarg visited the school to conduct the medical checks. A special awareness session was led by a Lady Medical Officer

from the hospital, who delivered an informative lecture on menstrual health and hygiene for teenage girls. Officials added that students were also sensitised about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, with the Army committing to facilitate the vaccination drive for all girl students between 14 and 15 years of age.

In addition, a Medical Officer from the Army conducted an awareness talk focusing on personal hygiene and the importance of proper handwashing practices. The session aimed to address myths and misconceptions while encouraging healthy habits from an early age. The interactive session was well-received, with students participating with confidence and interest. The medical camp also included eyesight screen-

ing, height and weight assessment for young children, and general medical check-ups for all students. A general health check-up of teachers and other school staff was also carried out. While most children were found to be healthy and active, a few with vision defects were identified. Officials stated that the Army unit has planned to provide free spectacles to the concerned students in association with SDH Tangmarg. Parents of these children have been informed, and appropriate medical advice along with follow-up instructions have been conveyed.

The initiative underscores the commitment of the Indian Army not only to safeguard the nation's borders but also to strengthen the health and future of the nation's children, officials added.

DC Akshay inspects newly constructed hostel for wards of ex-servicemen/martyrs

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SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted an inspection visit to the newly constructed hostel for wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs at Peerbagh, Srinagar.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by several senior officials, including Director Sainik Welfare Pankaj Chib, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District Social Welfare Officer Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B Khalid Mehmood, Tehsildar Chanpora Kifayat Hussain and Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Farooq Fareed, Rashid War among others.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the overall facilities at the hostel and inspected key components such as the building structure, accommodation rooms, power and water supply facilities and other essential amenities.

While interacting with the Officers, Engineers and Sainik Welfare Officials, the DC observed that most of the construction work has been completed and the hostel is nearly ready for use. He



directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining works in a time-bound manner.

The DC stated that the inspection was aimed at ensuring completion of the hostel facility for safe and comfortable accommodation for students who are wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs. He highlighted that the hostel is a sig-

nificant initiative funded by the Union Ministry of Defence.

On the occasion, the DC appreciated the efforts of executing agency i.e. Exen R&B Rajbagh and all stakeholder departments along with Zila Sainik Welfare Board for accelerating the project in recent months and bringing it close to completion.

DC Srinagar emphasized the swift clearance of pending cases under Mission YUVA

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SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the credit related performance of the Banks in the district and also sponsoring Departments in implementation of priority sector schemes for financial year 2025-26.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, LDO, RBI, Amandeep Singh, DDM NABARD, Purnima Kakroo, Lead District Manager(Banks), Nelofer Jan, Deputy Director Employment, Shubi Tabasum, other District Officers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operat-



ing in Srinagar. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also Chairman of DLRC/DCC conducted a detailed sector-wise review of the performance of banks against the important credit related

and monetary parameters and in implementation of priority sector Government schemes including Mission YUVA, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other

schemes. He also reviewed achievements under Priority and Non-Priority Sector lending as per the Annual Credit Plan.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged banks and sponsoring agencies to focus on achieving targets under Priority Sector Lending and emphasized improving the ease of availing banking facilities for consumers. He also emphasized strengthening financial inclusion schemes through proper handholding of beneficiaries to enhance credit outreach. Emphasizing improved performance in priority sectors, the DC said banks' progress in extending credit under government-sponsored schemes is being closely monitored and that low-performing branches would be formally taken up with the respective HR divisions. He emphasized close coordination between banks and sponsoring agencies for the

effective implementation of self-employment schemes, enabling beneficiaries to establish income-generating units seamlessly.

During the meeting, it was informed that banks operating in Srinagar have disbursed a total credit of Rs. 7736 crore to 6472 beneficiaries under various schemes, achieving 157% of the target till the quarter ending December 2025 of the financial year 2025-26. It was also informed that deposits amounting to Rs 39258.30 crore and advances of Rs 26765.89 crore have been registered.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan for District Srinagar for the financial year 2026-27, aimed at providing a roadmap for credit planning and facilitating sector-wise growth in alignment with the district's developmental priorities.

Kupwara admin organises grand culmination event for weeklong 'Vande Mataram' Campaign

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KUPWARA: In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the iconic national song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration, Kupwara, successfully organised a grand culmination event of phase 3 of Vande Mataram campaign today at Town Hall, Kupwara. The programme was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and SSP Kupwara Syed Al-Tahir Gilani.

The proceedings commenced with the solemn rendition of National Song and the National Anthem. Documentary produced by the District Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Department, Kupwara, was launched on this occasion elucidating the historical importance of national songs and activities undertaken in the district as part

of ongoing Campaign.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner underscored the significance of "Vande Mataram" in nurturing national unity and patriotism.

He extended sincere appreciation to all departments and stakeholders for their exemplary coordination in conducting a series of events district-wide during this special phase of celebrations.

The event concluded with the conferment of Certificates of Appreciation upon the winners securing first, second, and third positions in the singing and essay writing competitions organised by the DIPR.

The programme was also attended by ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ACR, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; ACD; CMO; CEO; besides other senior officers from line departments and school students.

3 gamblers arrested in Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against the social crimes, J&K Police in Anantnag have arrested three gamblers and seized stake money from their possession.

Acting on reliable information regarding gambling activities in the Ganeshpora area, Police Station Aishmuqam conducted a prompt and well-coordinated raid at the specified location. During the operation, three individuals were apprehended on the spot while indulging in gambling. The accused have been identified as Mohd Akbar Rather son of Mohd Shaban Rather, Javid Ahmad Rather Sson of Gh Rasool Rather and Sajad Ahmad Dass son of Abdul Ahmad Dass, all residents of Waghama, Bijbehara.

Officers have seized an amount of Rs 12,750/- and playing cards from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Tanvir urges authorities to review cases of youth held after Khamenei protests

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq today appealed for the release of youths who were arrested during protests linked to the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Raising the matter in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sadiq urged the Speaker and the Leader of the House to take up the issue with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, calling for a review of the detentions on humanitarian grounds.

"The continued detention of these youths is a matter of serious con-

cern. I appeal for their immediate release and request that their cases be reviewed with compassion," Sadiq said. He said the youth were arrested in the aftermath of protests that broke out across parts of Kashmir following reports of the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei. Pertinently, a delegation of leaders, including Sadiq, had earlier met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and sought a review of cases involving detained youth. Tanvir emphasized that prolonged detention of youth could have wider social implications and called for a balanced approach that takes into account both law and humanitarian considerations.

SSP Pulwama Presides Over District Level DGP/IGP Conference 2025-26

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SRINAGAR: J&K Police in Pulwama organised one-day District Level DGP/IGP Conference 2025-26 at the Conference Hall of District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama.

The conference was presided over by SSP Pulwama Ms. Tanushree-IPS, who also delivered the closing address. She stressed the need for professional excellence, quality investigation, and enhanced public engagement in policing. The programme commenced with an inaugural address by Addl. SP Pulwama, followed by a series of thematic sessions conducted by senior officers. Key topics discussed included NDPS investigations, procedures for property attachment in NDPS cases, cyber crime and its modus operandi, investigation techniques in cyber-related

cases, and the implementation and importance of IRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) for effective road accident analysis and management.

Deliberations were also held on crucial aspects such as beat policing, communication skills, and community policing. Special emphasis was laid on engagement with local leaders for effectively handling and defusing crisis situations. The conference witnessed participation from SDPOs, SHOs, ICs of Police Posts, and officers from Cyber Police Station and District Police Office Pulwama. Police reiterated its commitment towards strengthening professional standards, enhancing investigative capabilities, and promoting people-friendly policing through such capacity-building initiatives.

Police felicitate 08 officers on superannuation in Baramulla

BARAMULLA: A felicitation ceremony was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Baramulla to honour 08 officers of District Police Baramulla who are retiring on superannuation on 31 March 2026.

On the occasion, the retiring officers were presented with retirement gifts as a token of recognition for their dedicated and meritorious service. SSP Baramulla appreciated their professionalism, dedication, and long years of committed service to the department. He acknowledged their valuable contributions in maintaining law & order and serving the public with sincerity throughout their careers. Officers present on the occasion also extended their best wishes to the retiring personnel for a healthy, happy, and prosperous life ahead. Police wishes them good health, happiness, and success in their future endeavours.

Drug peddler arrested in Budgam

BUDGAM: Continuing its drive against drug abuse, Police in Budgam arrested a drug peddler in the Chadoora area and recovered a substantial quantity of contraband substance from his possession.

Acting on credible information, Police Station Chadoora received inputs that one individual identified as Mohammad Hashim Raina of Hasipora Chadoora, was involved in drug peddling and had stored contraband substances at his saw-machine in village Kaisarmullah for illegal distribution among local youth. Acting swiftly, a police team accompanied by Executive Magistrate concerned conducted a raid at the said location. During the search, approximately 9.9 Kgs of charas-like substance was recovered. The accused was arrested on the spot, and the contraband was seized as per legal procedures. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 35/2026 under relevant sections of law been registered at Police Station Chadoora, and further investigation is in progress. Police appeals to the public to assist in eliminating the drug menace by sharing any information about such illegal activities.

Illegal mining: Heavy machinery seized in Pulwama

Srinagar: Acting firmly against illegal mining activities, police in Pulwama carried out a successful operation in the Litter area, leading to the seizure of heavy machinery involved in unlawful extraction of minerals from Rambiar Nallah. A team from Police Station Litter seized one JCB (Chassis No. HAR3DXS4E03277873) along with two dumpers (Regd. Nos. JK13K-2574 and JK13G-7958) found engaged in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. Legal action has been initiated in this regard. A case FIR No. 37/2026 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act has been registered at Police Station Litter. Police reiterates its zero-tolerance approach towards illegal mining and warns violators of strict legal consequences.